

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please enter the following amended claims:

Sub L1  
Claim 1. (Previously Canceled)

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2. (Currently Amended) A fuel injection valve for opening and closing a needle valve by driving an armature with a solenoid, said fuel injection valve comprising:  
said needle valve;  
said armature;  
said solenoid comprising a coil; and  
a buffer portion damping a change of fuel pressure caused by valve bounce when the needle is closed, said buffer portion being an elastic member disposed at a position at which said buffer portion faces and contacts a fuel passage located at an upstream side with respect to an end face of said armature located on a side of a nozzle opening side,

wherein said elastic member is provided between a sleeve and said core in order to form said buffer portion, said sleeve being disposed between a core and a valve holder of the solenoid, said elastic member being attached to a portion of said sleeve located near an end portion of a coil, said end portion of said coil being the end portion of said coil nearest to said needle valve with respect to an opposite end portion of said coil, and said elastic member extending in a perpendicular direction away from said sleeve toward said core.

Claims 3-5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Currently Amended) A fuel injection valve for opening and closing a needle valve by driving an armature with a solenoid, said fuel injection valve comprising:

said needle valve;

said armature;

said solenoid;

a sleeve; and

51 a buffer portion damping a change of fuel pressure caused by valve bounce when the needle is closed, said buffer portion being an elastic member disposed at a position at which said buffer portion faces and contacts a fuel passage located at an upstream side with respect to an end face of said armature located on a side of a nozzle opening side,

wherein ~~substantially all of said buffer portion~~ contacts fuel in said fuel passage and said buffer portion is located between said sleeve and a core of said fuel injection valve.

7. (Currently Amended) A fuel injection valve for opening and closing a needle valve by driving an armature with a solenoid, said fuel injection valve comprising:

said needle valve;

said armature;

said solenoid;

a sleeve; and

a buffer portion damping a change of fuel pressure caused by valve bounce when the needle is closed, said buffer portion being an elastic member disposed at a position at which said

buffer portion faces and contacts a fuel passage located at an upstream side with respect to an end face on a nozzle opening side of said armature,

wherein said buffer portion is located between said sleeve and a core of said fuel injection valve and substantially all of said buffer portion contacts fuel in said fuel passage.

8. (Previously Amended) A fuel injection valve for opening and closing a needle valve by driving an armature with a solenoid, said fuel injection valve comprising:

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said needle valve;

said armature;

said solenoid; and

means for damping a change of fuel pressure caused by valve bounce when the needle is closed, said means being an elastic member disposed at a position at which said means faces and contacts a fuel passage located at an upstream side with respect to an end face of said armature located on a side of a nozzle opening side.

9. (Previously Amended) A fuel injection valve for opening and closing a needle valve by driving an armature with a solenoid, said fuel injection valve comprising:

said needle valve;

said armature;

said solenoid; and

means for damping a change of fuel pressure caused by valve bounce when the needle is closed, said means being an elastic member disposed at a position at which said means faces and

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/413,348

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Ji contacts a fuel passage located at an upstream side with respect to an end face on a nozzle  
opening side of said armature.

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